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**FLOOR STATEMENT EXCERPT**  
**Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg**  
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"WHAT'S IMPORTANT HERE -- AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO US WHO ARE IN THE MAJORITY SPECIFICALLY -- IS THE ESSENCE OF GOVERNANCE. YOU CAN'T REALLY GOVERN UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO SET UP PRINCIPLES BY WHICH YOU GOVERN AND ESPECIALLY THE BLUEPRINT WHICH IS GOING TO GUIDE YOU IN THE GOVERNANCE ACTIVITY. AND ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THINGS YOU DO IF YOU ARE THE MAJORITY PARTY AND YOU HAVE THE PRESIDENCY IS YOU MAKE THE DECISIONS, THE BASIC DECISIONS AS TO HOW THE FINANCES WILL BE SPENT AND HOW THEY WILL BE SHEPHERDED WELL.

"THESE ARE TAX DOLLARS. PEOPLE WORK HARD. EVERY DAY PEOPLE ARE OUT PUTTING IN A FULL DAY'S WORK AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EVERY DAY COMES ALONG AND SAYS, WELL, YOU JUST WORKED ALL DAY LONG. WE'RE GOING TO TAKE "X" PERCENTAGE OF THE MONEY THAT YOU EARNED AND WE'RE GOING TO SPEND IT ON A SERIES OF THINGS. WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FIRST KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO SPEND IT ON AND HOW WE'RE GOING TO SPEND IT. THAT'S HOW A BUDGET COMES IN PLAY.

"THEN THAT WE BE GOOD SHEPHERDS OF THOSE DOLLARS AND DO IT IN AN EFFECTIVE WAY. SO THAT WE DON'T OVERBURDEN THE TAXPAYERS, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN RETAIN AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE IN THEIR POCKETS TO SPEND ON WHAT THEY KNOW IS IMPORTANT IN THEIR LIVES, AND THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T TAKE IT AND SPEND IT FOR THEM AND TELL THEM HOW THEIR MONEY SHOULD BE SPENT.

"AND THAT WE FUNCTION IN A WAY THAT WE GET THE TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THAT DELIVERS THE SERVICES THAT ARE CRITICAL TO MAKING SURE WE CAN DEFEND OURSELVES AND TAKE CARE OF OUR LESS FORTUNATE IN THIS NATION, MAKE SURE WE HAVE STRONG EDUCATION, MAKE SURE WE HAVE GOOD HEALTH SYSTEMS, THAT WE CAN CONTINUE AS A NATION TO HAVE A VIBRANT AND A STRONG ECONOMY. AND THIS ALL STARTS WITH A BUDGET.

"IT'S THAT SIMPLE. THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE PRODUCT. THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF THE EXERCISE. AND IF YOU DON'T HAVE THAT BLUEPRINT IN PLACE, IT REALLY MAKES THE REST OF THE PROCESS EXTREMELY COMPLICATED AND MUCH MORE DIFFICULT."